

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A roof rack for a vehicle, having at least one rail extending essentially at a distance from the roof surface of the vehicle and at least two supports at the ends of the rail to attach the roof rack to the vehicle roof, wherein the rail is defined by an elongate body having exterior walls extending along the length of the rail and end faces extending across the elongate body; wherein an elongate longitudinal section of the rail adjacent an end face is curved so as to form a curved section, the ~~curve~~ curved section being formed apart from the end face and being formed by an exterior surface of said exterior walls of the rail; and wherein the curved section of the rail is held from below by the support such that the support attaches to the curved section of the rail via the exterior wall and independent of the end face and such that the support is displaced longitudinally along the rail from the end face, wherein the top surface of the support, when viewed in cross-section, forms a flat supporting surface for a matching surface on the rail, wherein the matching surface of the rail is flat when viewed in cross-section, and wherein said matching surface comprises a recess formed in the underside of the rail in the area of the curve to receive the support.

35. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 34, wherein the rail is tubular and wherein the roof rack further comprises a projection which extends into the end of the rail, wherein the

projection has a shape which corresponds to the interior of the rail so as to extend into the interior of the rail and engage an interior surface of said exterior walls of the rail.

36. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 35, wherein the roof rack further comprises a mounting plate, and wherein the projection extends upwardly from the mounting plate.

37. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 36, wherein the mounting plate attaches to the bottom of the support and wherein the end face of the rail is disposed adjacent the mounting plate.

38. (Currently Amended) A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:

a rail extending at a distance from the roof of a vehicle, the rail having an elongate body and having exterior walls disposed along the length of the rail and an end face disposed across the elongate body, the end face being directed towards the roof of said vehicle;

a curved section of the rail, the curved section comprising an elongate longitudinal section of the rail which is adjacent the end of the rail and separate from the end face of the rail, the curved section being defined by an exterior surface of said exterior walls of the rail; and

a support attached to the curved section of the rail via the exterior walls and configured for attaching the rail to the roof of a vehicle at a position apart from the end face of the rail, the support having an upper surface which is curved so as to be complementary to the lower surface of the curved section of the rail, and wherein the rail has a recess formed in the underside of the exterior wall of the curved section of the rail and wherein the support is disposed in the recess.

39. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the support is generally flat on the bottom and configured for attachment to the roof of a vehicle.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) ~~The roof rack of claim 38,~~ A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:

a rail extending at a distance from the roof of a vehicle, the rail having an elongate body and having exterior walls disposed along the length of the rail and an end face disposed across the elongate body, the end face being directed towards the roof of said vehicle;

a curved section of the rail, the curved section comprising an elongate longitudinal section of the rail which is adjacent the end of the rail and separate from the end face of the rail, the curved section being defined by an exterior surface of said exterior walls of the rail; and

a support attached to the curved section of the rail via the exterior walls and configured for attaching the rail to the roof of a vehicle at a position apart from the end face of the rail, the support having an upper surface which is curved so as to be complementary to the lower surface of the curved section of the rail, and wherein the bottom of the curved section and the top of the support are flat when viewed in a cross-section taken laterally across the rail.

42. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the rail is tubular so as to have a hollow interior, and wherein the roof rack comprises a projection which is complementary in shape to the hollow interior of the rail and which is disposed in the hollow interior of the tubular rail so as to engage the interior surface of said rail exterior walls.

43. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 42, further comprising a mounting plate attached to the bottom of the support, and wherein the projection is disposed on the mounting plate.

44. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the bottom of the curved portion and the top of the support have a curved shape in longitudinal cross-section.

45. (Currently Amended) ~~The roof rack of claim 38,~~ A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:
a rail extending at a distance from the roof of a vehicle, the rail having an elongate body
and having exterior walls disposed along the length of the rail and an end face disposed across
the elongate body, the end face being directed towards the roof of said vehicle;
a curved section of the rail, the curved section comprising an elongate longitudinal
section of the rail which is adjacent the end of the rail and separate from the end face of the rail,
the curved section being defined by an exterior surface of said exterior walls of the rail; and
a support attached to the curved section of the rail via the exterior walls and configured
for attaching the rail to the roof of a vehicle at a position apart from the end face of the rail, the
support having an upper surface which is curved so as to be complementary to the lower surface
of the curved section of the rail, and wherein the rail has a step formed on the underside and
wherein the support is disposed adjacent the step such that the step locates the support.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Currently Amended) ~~The roof rack of claim 46,~~ A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:

a rail extending at a distance from the roof of a vehicle, the rail having an elongate body and having exterior walls disposed along the length of the rail and an end face disposed across the elongate body, the end face being directed towards the roof of said vehicle;

a curved section of the rail, the curved section comprising an elongate longitudinal section of the rail which is adjacent the end of the rail and separate from the end face of the rail, the curved section being defined by an exterior surface of said exterior walls of the rail; and

a support attached to the curved section of the rail via the exterior walls and configured for attaching the rail to the roof of a vehicle at a position apart from the end face of the rail, the support having an upper surface which is curved so as to be complementary to the lower surface of the curved section of the rail;

further comprising a mounting plate located between the support and the roof of a vehicle, and wherein the end face of the rail is disposed adjacent the mounting plate, and wherein the mounting plate has a projection disposed thereon, wherein the projection extends into a hollow interior of the end of the rail, and wherein the projection is complementary in shape to the interior of the rail so as to engage the interior surface of said exterior walls of the rail.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) ~~The roof rack of claim 48,~~ A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:

a rail extending at a distance from a vehicle, wherein the rail comprises an elongate body defined by exterior walls extending along the length thereof, an end face extending across the end of the rail, the end face being connected to the vehicle, and an elongate longitudinal section

of the rail disposed adjacent the end of the rail, said longitudinal section being curved such that said longitudinal section of the rail curves towards the surface of a vehicle;

a support disposed apart from the end of the rail and attached to the underside of the longitudinal curved section of the rail via an exterior surface of said exterior walls of the rail, the support having a curved upper surface which is complementary to the lower surface of the curved section and the support having a lower surface attached to a vehicle apart from the end face, and wherein the rail has a recess formed in the exterior wall of the rail in the underside of the curved section, and wherein the support is located in the recess.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~The roof rack of claim 48,~~ A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:

a rail extending at a distance from a vehicle, wherein the rail comprises an elongate body defined by exterior walls extending along the length thereof, an end face extending across the end of the rail, the end face being connected to the vehicle, and an elongate longitudinal section of the rail disposed adjacent the end of the rail, said longitudinal section being curved such that said longitudinal section of the rail curves towards the surface of a vehicle;

a support disposed apart from the end of the rail and attached to the underside of the longitudinal curved section of the rail via an exterior surface of said exterior walls of the rail, the support having a curved upper surface which is complementary to the lower surface of the curved section and the support having a lower surface attached to a vehicle apart from the end face, and wherein the rail has a step formed in the underside of the curved section, and wherein the support is disposed against the step.

51. (Currently Amended) ~~The roof rack of claim 48,~~ A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:

a rail extending at a distance from a vehicle, wherein the rail comprises an elongate body defined by exterior walls extending along the length thereof, an end face extending across the end of the rail, the end face being connected to the vehicle, and an elongate longitudinal section of the rail disposed adjacent the end of the rail, said longitudinal section being curved such that said longitudinal section of the rail curves towards the surface of a vehicle;

a support disposed apart from the end of the rail and attached to the underside of the longitudinal curved section of the rail via an exterior surface of said exterior walls of the rail, the support having a curved upper surface which is complementary to the lower surface of the curved section and the support having a lower surface attached to a vehicle apart from the end face, and further comprising a mounting plate attached to the bottom of the support, and wherein the mounting plate has a projection configured for engaging a recess in the end face of the rail.

52. (Currently Amended) ~~The roof rack of claim 48,~~ A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:

a rail extending at a distance from a vehicle, wherein the rail comprises an elongate body defined by exterior walls extending along the length thereof, an end face extending across the end of the rail, the end face being connected to the vehicle, and an elongate longitudinal section of the rail disposed adjacent the end of the rail, said longitudinal section being curved such that said longitudinal section of the rail curves towards the surface of a vehicle;

a support disposed apart from the end of the rail and attached to the underside of the longitudinal curved section of the rail via an exterior surface of said exterior walls of the rail, the support having a curved upper surface which is complementary to the lower surface of the curved section and the support having a lower surface attached to a vehicle apart from the end face, and wherein the rail has a tubular body defining a hollow interior, and wherein the roof

rack has a mounting plate attached to the bottom of the support, the mounting plate having a projection extending upwardly therefrom having a shape which corresponds to the shape of the hollow interior of the rail and which extends into the hollow interior of the rail so as to engage the walls of said interior.

53. (Currently Amended) ~~The roof rack of claim 48,~~ A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:

a rail extending at a distance from a vehicle, wherein the rail comprises an elongate body defined by exterior walls extending along the length thereof, an end face extending across the end of the rail, the end face being connected to the vehicle, and an elongate longitudinal section of the rail disposed adjacent the end of the rail, said longitudinal section being curved such that said longitudinal section of the rail curves towards the surface of a vehicle;

a support disposed apart from the end of the rail and attached to the underside of the longitudinal curved section of the rail via an exterior surface of said exterior walls of the rail, the support having a curved upper surface which is complementary to the lower surface of the curved section and the support having a lower surface attached to a vehicle apart from the end face, and wherein the bottom of the curved section and the top of the recess are curved in longitudinal cross-section and flat in lateral cross section.

54. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the rail is formed by a single piece comprising a generally straight portion and a said curved section.

55. (New) The roof rack of claim 38, further comprising a mounting plate located between the support and the roof of a vehicle, and wherein the end face of the rail is disposed adjacent the

mounting plate, and wherein the mounting plate has a projection disposed thereon, wherein the projection extends into a hollow interior of the end of the rail, and wherein the projection is complementary in shape to the interior of the rail so as to engage the interior surface of said exterior walls of the rail.

56. (New) The roof rack of claim 41, further comprising a mounting plate located between the support and the roof of a vehicle, and wherein the end face of the rail is disposed adjacent the mounting plate, and wherein the mounting plate has a projection disposed thereon, wherein the projection extends into a hollow interior of the end of the rail, and wherein the projection engages the interior surface of said exterior walls of the rail

57. (New) The roof rack of claim 47, wherein the rail has a recess formed in the underside of the exterior wall of the curved section of the rail and wherein the support is disposed in the recess.